## House File 2210 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2210

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## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the establishment of an urban-ag academy
- 2 under the board of regents.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. **262.101 Agriculture and urban**
- 2 economies legislative intent.
- 3 The general assembly recognizes that state legislative
- 4 bodies in Iowa and across the country are becoming more
- 5 urban and inclusive of more minority groups, and many policy
- 6 discussions concern the differences between urban and rural
- 7 interests. Both rural and urban districts stand to reap
- 8 enormous benefits from increased understanding of the benefits
- 9 of agriculture for urban economies and the issues faced
- 10 by rural constituencies. Therefore, the general assembly
- 11 encourages the board of regents, through its three state
- 12 universities, to conduct a national urban-ag academy once a
- 13 year to give state legislators in Iowa and around the country
- 14 an opportunity to expand their knowledge of agricultural and
- 15 rural policy issues, so that, they too, may engage in effective
- 16 public policymaking.
- 17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 262.102 National urban-ag academy.
- 18 1. To the extent practicable and contingent upon available
- 19 funding, the board of regents, through the institutions under
- 20 the board's control, may annually conduct a national urban-ag
- 21 academy to update, inform, and enhance the knowledge of
- 22 state legislative policymakers around the country regarding
- 23 agricultural issues and concerns.
- 24 2. The purpose of the academy is to create a forum for
- 25 interactive problem solving and the exchange of ideas related
- 26 to agriculture, animal production, energy, conservation,
- 27 agricultural education, and new technologies. The goal of
- 28 the academy shall be to bring urban, minority, and rural
- 29 legislators and other policymakers together with experts in
- 30 agriculture, rural development, and other relevant areas, to
- 31 create opportunities for all legislators to be fully informed
- 32 concerning issues and policy initiatives relating to the
- 33 agricultural sector.
- 34 EXPLANATION
- 35 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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- the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 2 This bill encourages the board of regents to conduct an
- 3 annual urban-ag academy to provide opportunities for urban,
- 4 minority, and rural legislators and policymakers to meet with
- 5 experts in agriculture, rural development, and other similar
- 6 areas to create opportunities for legislators to be fully
- 7 informed concerning agricultural issues.
- 8 Establishment of the academy is contingent on available
- 9 funding.